

Monday January 8 1996

Algeria D 0.50	Hong Kong HK\$ 25	Pakistan R 70
Australia A\$ 2.00	Hungary F 200	Puerto Rico P 200
Belgium B 2.00	India Ru 50	Qatar QR 1.00
Canada C 1.00	Indonesia Rp 1,000	Romania US\$ 2.00
Denmark D 1.00	Japan Y 100	Saudi Arabia SR 2.00
France F 6.00	Korea W 100	Slovenia SK 50
Germany DM 3.00	Latvia L 100	Slovenia SL 260
Greece G 3.00	Lebanon L 1,000	Spain P 165
Ireland I 0.70	Lithuania US\$ 1.00	Sweden S 16
Italy L 1,000	Luxembourg LF 50	Switzerland SF 3
Japan Y 100	Madagascar M 200	Taiwan T 200
Korea W 100	Malta M 100	Thailand TH 50
Lebanon L 1,000	Morocco D 10	Turkey TL 100
Lithuania US\$ 1.00	Netherlands G 3.75	Ukraine US\$ 2.00
Luxembourg LF 50	Norway N 1.00	USA US\$ 2.75
Malta M 100	Oman O 1.00	
Maldives M 100		
Mexico M 20		
Morocco D 10		
Netherlands G 3.75		
Norway N 1.00		
Oman O 1.00		

The Guardian

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NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR
46,444

Extract from Angela Neustatter's new book

Baby boomers at 50

Guardian 2 with European weather



Media

Wapping 10 years on

G2 pages 7/9

Robert De Niro back on form

Turning on the heat

G2 pages 10/11



Major adds to Saudi turmoil

Seumas Milne and Michael White

JOHNSON Major yesterday intervened in the furrow over plans to expel Mohammed al-Mas'ari, describing the Saudi dissident an illegal immigrant amid growing signs of confusion as to whether commercial or strategic reasons lay behind the decision to deport him.

The Prime Minister said Mr Mas'ari had sought to create an "unsettled relationship" with Saudi Arabia — which was critical to the stability of the Gulf and British interests — and his administration could not "tolerantly look to one side".

There was fresh embarrassment for the Government yesterday when it emerged that the BBC's Arabic television service was blacked out at the Saudi-owned satellite relay station in Rome after news broke last week of the decision to deport Mr Mas'ari to Dominica in the Caribbean. The service is channelled through Orbit Communications, part of the Mawarid business empire, owned by Saudi Prince Khalid bin 'Abd al-Rahman, a cousin of King Fahd. A spokesman for BBC Worldwide Television last night said broadcasting had been resumed, but the gaps in transmission — were being "urgently investigated".

The Prime Minister's sharply different tone

stressed both that Mr Mas'ari is an illegal immigrant — a common necessity for many people fleeing political persecution — and the importance of Saudi Arabia to Gulf stability. Though he did not say so, that means the whole structure of western economies dependent on Gulf oil.

Mr Major's intervention came as Tory MPs expressed astonishment that the Government could have sustained such an embarrassing public relations defeat over a decision which could have won overwhelming support if presented properly.

They fear ministers face further humiliation in the courts as remarks by Michael Howard and his Home Office team, linking deportation with commercial calculations, will be used to uphold Mr Mas'ari's appeal.

One former minister said: "It is vital not to pierce the integrity of the system. Ministers should have stuck to the line about his being an undesirable illegal immigrant."

The result, some Tory MPs predicted, will make tackling "the massive problem" of asylum abuse by bogus claimants much harder at a time when the controversial Asylum and Immigration Bill faces Commons scrutiny.

Ministers are confident that voters — and workers in the arms industries — will uphold their judgment, a view reflected in Labour's cautious response where vital manufacturing capacity is at stake. Meanwhile, tank manufacturer Vickers refused to comment on suggestions by Mr Mas'ari that a remark about "stifling" him in its leaked memorandum — published in the Guardian on Saturday — was a reference to a Saudi kidnap or murder plot.

The memo, by the firm's chief executive, Sir Colin Chandler, cited a view in intelligence and business circles that "direct Saudi intervention" against the dissident could be "difficult".

In the first official Saudi response Mr Mas'ari was stripped of his citizenship. Union anger at Vickers, page 5; Labour's unity plea, page 3; Blair ponders 'tiger' welfare, page 5; Mark Lawson, page 9

North Korean starvation threatens to spark refugee crisis



Cheerleaders wave red flags to encourage workers mobilised to clear North Korean flood damage PHOTOGRAPH: TREVOR PAGE

Last bastion of communism fights devastating famine

Victoria Brittain

NORTH KOREA, the secretive last bastion of communism in the world, is suffering a devastating famine which, without urgent action from Western aid organisations, threatens to unleash a flood of refugees that could destabilise the entire region.

North Korea's isolation, and the propaganda campaign by Washington, which claims Pyongyang poses a nuclear weapons threat, makes it difficult for the World Food Programme and the Red Cross — the only Western relief agencies in the country — to secure aid. Today North Korea needs 1.5 million tons of food aid — one-eighth of total food aid for the world last year.

Female hostages isolated nation, page 8; Leader comment, page 8

Life on the edge offers investors last smellicorium in England and last unsavoury kitchen in Scotland

Roger Cove

HOUSEHUNTERS fed up with Middle England might consider two unusual properties which come on the market today, each with many original features. They won't have to go to the ends of the earth, just the ends of mainland Britain.

Buyers need not worry about being caught in a lengthy chain — the seller is leaving the country. The New Zealand property and investment company, Gulf Resources Pacific, which bought the sites from entrepreneur Peter de Savary in separate deals in 1991, has decided to concentrate on its investments back home. Mr de Savary said yesterday he was tempted to join the bidding.

What you get

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 - Coffee shop, visitor shop
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 - See views across Pentland Firth to Orkney Islands
 - Orkney Islands ferry service terminal

ing the original features of what the estate agent describes as an "exciting, wild and dramatic landscape", the property has also benefited from the creation of a visitor centre which represents traditional Cornwall "in a sophisticated, computer-

controlled sound and light show". A "man against the sea" exhibition includes Cornish fishing craft, a history of coastguards and "smellicorium". The present owners have added several adjacent properties, used mainly as holiday lettings, to the main holding. This has, the estate agent says, "assisted in underwriting the asset value and the existing trading base". While substantial work has been put in to Land's End, John o' Groats, in contrast, has been operated on a low key "care and maintenance" basis. It consists of a small hotel set in 20 acres, and not much else except the wind. The hotel needs substan-

tial investment. Last month the Caithness Licensing Board banned cooking in its kitchens because they failed to meet health and hygiene standards. But the new owners will have the benefit of planning permission to extend the hotel and include a visitor "interpretation centre". The building is not listed or of architectural interest, which would give wide scope for improvement, and grants may be available from the Highlands and Islands Enterprise company. Bidders whose resources do not stretch beyond £5 million can buy just one of these sites. The owners, despite having put them together, are prepared to see them sold separately.

Blair unveils economic 'big idea'

Nick Cunnings-Bruce in Singapore and Michael White

TONY Blair will today unveil his vision of a "stakeholder society", binding all parts of the community to a common national enterprise as the key to restoring Britain's fortunes and as the economic big idea that will help beat the Tories in the election.

The Labour leader has chosen a brief excursion into the economic powerhouse of Asia as the moment to provide Labour's answer to Conservative Party sloganeering about making Britain "the enterprise centre of Europe".

A foretaste of the speech came as Mr Blair paused yesterday between engagements around Singapore, where his declared purpose is to examine ways in which the city-state has pioneered interventionist changes in the private sector.

"I want Britain to be a stakeholder economy where everyone has a chance to get on and succeed, where there is a clear sense of national purpose and where we leave behind some of the battles between left and right which really are not relevant in the new global economy of today," he said.

Mr Blair's tour of Japan and Singapore — his first major visit outside Europe — was intended partly to show off "what an incoming Labour government looks like" and to reassure business by spreading New Labour's message on the dynamic Pacific Rim.

But spurred by the interest and favourable reception he feels he received from Japan's industrial barons, Mr Blair will use today's speech to businessmen in Singapore as the platform to present "the economic justification for social cohesion" — themes more familiar to Asian audiences than those in Britain or the US.

The main thrust of his argument will be that "the creation of an economy where we are inventing and producing goods and services of high quality needs the engagement of the whole country. It must become a matter of national purpose and national pride."

This needs a relationship of trust between government and people, he will reason, emphasising that trust means "the recognition of a mutual purpose for which we work together and in which we all benefit". If people feel they have no stake in the economy, they feel little responsibility for it and little inclination to work for its success.

Mr Blair believes this vision will capture the high ground of economic debate — so long the preserve of the Tories — and finally shake off the image of a "tax-and-spend" party which the shadow chancellor, Gordon Brown, has been working to expunge.


In a further break with Labour's traditions, Mr Blair will argue that old strategies of delivering social justice by redistributing taxes and benefits may have served their purpose in the past.

But they do not fit the country's needs in the emerging global economy, Mr Blair will say. His comments are likely to trouble more cautious colleagues as well as leftwing MPs, some of whom are being wooed by the Scargill-led breakaway socialist party.

John Major yesterday joined ministers in deriding the Labour leader's visit and his soundbite policies: "They seem substantially to be an empty box."

Mr Blair's speech is intended to pull together all the arguments on social, economic and educational reform he has advanced in 20 months since becoming Labour leader and in the process reinforce his weekend appeal to woo One Nation Tories to Labour.

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1996 Jan 8



North Korea has mobilised its population to repair the extensive damage wrought by flooding. Workers queue (left) to help with clearing canals and rebuilding irrigation dykes

PHOTOGRAPHS: TREVORI PAGE

Famine haunts isolated nation

Floods prove 'last straw' as children show signs of stunted growth amid chronic shortages

John Gittings

FOOD rations have been cut drastically for 22 million North Koreans as the world's most isolated regime struggles against flood damage and a catastrophic fall in production. Rations for coal miners and others doing heavy work have been almost halved in the past year. Factory workers are said to be visibly listless and underfed. Six million children are also on short rations and many show signs of stunted

growth. The World Health Organisation says medical services throughout the country are "very fragile". Cereals are supposed to provide three-quarters of the average calorie intake, with the rest coming from fish, meat, vegetables and oil. But United Nations officials say that because of "chronic shortages", these are seldom available. Reports from UN aid officials, who have been given exceptional access to normally closed areas since last summer's floods, show that the North Korean crisis goes far deeper than was originally

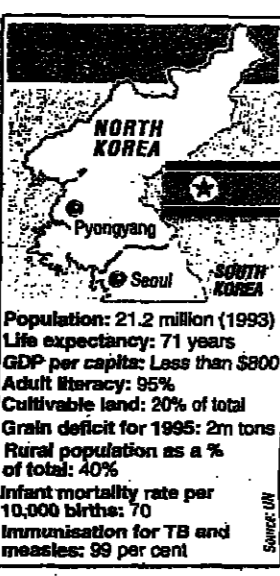
thought. The floods are seen as the last straw after five years of declining food production. Poor climate and mountainous terrain, says a joint report by the World Food Programme (WFP) and the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), obliged North Korea to rely heavily on intensive use of chemicals and electric power to improve and irrigate the land. But the loss of aid from China and the former Soviet Union, and Pyongyang's low credit rating abroad, meant these inputs could not be maintained. Cereal production has declined every year since 1990. UN officials who have travelled widely in the countryside note that Pyongyang has mobilised the population to tackle the damage. Peasants are joined by workers to clear

clogged canals and rebuild shattered irrigation dykes, while cheer leaders wave huge red flags. Rhythmic chants in praise of Kim Il-sung's *Juche* (self-reliance) philosophy urge them on. But the collective system has produced a society which depends almost entirely on subsidised food rations and suffers immediately when the state runs short. Even in the modern capital of Pyongyang, city residents must trundle small trolleys through the streets to collect their entitlement. Grain is not sold at all in the small free markets. Until last year rationing was based on a complex nine-level system, in which the highest grade provided 900 grams of cereal daily for workers in heavy industry and the lowest grade provided

100 grams for children in kindergartens. To meet the present crisis, this system was simplified to three levels — children under 16, adults between 16 and 64, and those aged 65 and over — and lower rations were fixed. It is these lower targets which have now been further reduced — by 31 per cent for adults and 17 per cent for children. A heavy-industry worker will now receive only 479 grams daily — just over half the original ration. The recommended daily average of 2,131 calories — even if it can be achieved — is regarded as an absolute minimum. But nutritional experts point out that it is based on an ambient temperature of 20C. In North Korea's savage winter climate, and with virtually no domestic heating,

the minimum intake should be much higher. Grain imports from China ceased at the beginning of 1995 because of Pyongyang's inability to pay. The country's food reserve of 4 million tons of grain has been exhausted. The WFP is struggling to find donors to enable it to continue with its relief plan. The first phase, which began late in November, should have fed 500,000 flood victims for three months. But the WFP was able to supply only a quarter of the food needed as few donors have come forward. Britain is still considering the request for aid. The FAO-WFP report appeals to international donors to support a food aid programme to a total of 1.3 million tons. It warns that the leanest period will

come in August-September and that malnutrition will increase. Pyongyang's secretive politics have discouraged foreign donors from giving aid. The propaganda machine continues to praise the "creative genius of the Great Leader Kim Jong-il", although the leader, the son and successor to the late Kim Il-sung, remains mysteriously out of sight. South Korean propaganda portrays Mr Kim as mentally unbalanced and says the north poses a serious military threat. This line was echoed on Friday by the Defence Secretary, Michael Portillo, when he visited Seoul. But most observers are sceptical of any military move by Pyongyang. Leader comment, page 8



PM's unity plea 'too late to stop rot'

Michael White Political Editor

CONSERVATIVE loyalists rallied to John Major's call for party unity last night amid growing private despair that it has come too late to prevent Labour winning the general election. The Prime Minister said on BBC1's *Breakfast with Frost*: "This election is there to be won, but it is also there to be lost. If the Conservative Party does not realise the opportunity that lies ahead and throws it away by disputes within itself, then it will lose the election." Mr Major's plea to restore a "tolerant, pragmatic, broad church of a party" was mixed in reports that two more left-leaning Tory MPs were contemplating fighting the election as independents, and predictions that defeat would see the Tories consigned to opposition for a generation.

Andrew Rowe, MP for Mid Kent, made it clear that he had no intention of outright defection to Labour or the Liberal Democrats, but he admitted that he might resign the Tory whip if the party drifted further to the right — a trend Mr Major repeatedly denied had occurred in his "centre-right" regime. Colleagues of Peter Thurnham, whose Bolton NE seat is disappearing under boundary changes, confirmed that he remained furious at not even being interviewed for the safe seat of Westmorland and Lonsdale — where he lives — and may run as an independent against the former party spin-doctor. Tim Collins, who won the vacant nomination. After nearly 19 years on the backbenches, Mr Thurnham, formerly a successful businessman, is precisely the sort of frustrated moderate who might run amok. "He's a very tortured soul, deeply upset," said one ally. With Tory morale as fragile

as a net majority of three can make it, the Prime Minister did his ebullient best yesterday to persuade his team that it had "weathered the storm" of a deep recession and must now stop Labour enjoying the fruits of recovery. Britain was "a centre-right country by instinct" that did not like "parties that squabble with themselves", he said. With moderate Tory MPs like Michael Mates and Ian Taylor yesterday calling for unity — and hinting at the long-predicted split if the party swings to the right in defeat — Mr Major used his interview to try and appease both sides. Unlike some colleagues he expressed sorrow, not anger, at the defections of Bronn Nicholson and Alan Howarth. More aggressively, he disparaged Labour's "soundbite" policies, talked tough on Europe and dangled a home-schools charter, before parents, though David Blun-

kett was quick to claim that as a Labour policy. Since Mr Major made no mention of fast-track opt-out processes to encourage schools to go grant-maintained, some MPs suspect it may still be bogged down in a Whitehall dispute. But the Prime Minister did confirm that he hoped to look again at Post Office privatisation in the coming Tory manifesto. From his Asian tour Tony Blair described Mr Major's latest plea as "the usual mish-mash". He told Sky TV: "The Conservatives are finished as a serious political governing force. They have no idea what to do with government." Alan Beith, the Liberal Democrat deputy leader, said: "What the Prime Minister calls a broad church is a divided party... in no condition to run the country and the results are obvious." Mark Lawson, page 9; Hope for Tories, page 5

Palestinian 'collaborator' sought over Ayyash killing

Derek Brown in Jerusalem and AP in Dura, West Bank

THE hunt for the assassin of the Palestinian serial bomber Yahya Ayyash, known as The Engineer, is now focused on an alleged Palestinian traitor, Kamal Hamad, a businessman implicated by his own family. Mr Hamad, widely rumoured to have fled to New York, is the uncle of Ayyash's friend Osama Hamad. The nephew, a trusted friend of Ayyash since their days at the West Bank's Bir Zeit University, said he got the cellular telephone which killed Ayyash from his uncle.

Kamal. He said his uncle may not have known about the explosives hidden in it but suggested he co-operated with Israeli intelligence. "Perhaps he thought they put in some listening devices," he said. But Kamal Hamad is not the only suspect in what appears to have been a convoluted Israeli plan. An Israeli plane flew over Ayyash's hideout in the Gaza Strip at the time of the explosion. Israeli television cited reports saying the 50 grams of high explosives were detonated from the air. Khaled al-Kidreh, the Palestinian attorney-general, said "more than one suspect" was

held in connection with the operation, which he blamed on Israel. Other sources said 16 people were in custody. On the last day of his life, Ayyash was staying in the home of Osama Hamad's parents in Beit Lahia village in the northern Gaza Strip. Osama, a Hamas activist, aged 27, who sheltered Ayyash in his flat, said the telephone rang at about 9am and he woke Ayyash to give him the call from his father, Abdel-Latif Ayyash. "He spoke for 10 to 15 seconds. I walked away to let him speak privately. Suddenly, I heard the explosion and looked back and saw smoke," he said after his

release after two days of questioning by Palestinian police. Osama Hamad cast doubt on the rumour that his uncle has fled to the United States. "I doubt it and I think he is in Israel," he said. Yasser Arafat, the Palestine Liberation Organisation chairman, yesterday accused Israeli intelligence of masterminding the assassination, and said it was a violation of the Israeli-PLO peace deal. Israel, which has not denied involvement in the killing, has closed its borders with both the Gaza Strip and the West Bank. Steve honours bomber, page 7; Obituary, page 10

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When the dispute was at its height and we huddled behind barbed wire and riot police while the pickets rampaged outside, we used to say that, if it all went terribly wrong, we would be evacuated by helicopter just like the American embassy in the last days of Saigon. "I'll have a jumbo waiting at Heathrow to take us all to New York," joked Rupert. Andrew Neil, 10 years after Wapping

G2 page 7

'Tying defence sales to the survival of governments or factions can lead to disaster'

Union anger at Vickers over 'whims' of foreign regimes

Chris Barrie and Seumas Milne

TRADER union officials at Vickers reacted with anger and dismay yesterday as the political storm intensified over the company's role in the expulsion order against the Saudi dissident Mohammed al-Mas'ari.

As Vickers managers were locked in crisis talks with advisers after the revelation that its chief executive Sir Colin Chandler had plotted with other industrialists to silence Mr Mas'ari, the president of the Amalgamated Electrical and Engineering Union complained that his members were being held to ransom by government policy over the Mas'ari case.

Davey Hall, AEEU president from today, and for several years the principal union

official covering the Vickers plant in Newcastle upon Tyne, said: "We want a long-term, reliable and consistent future for the defence industry and not one that is based on the whims of this or that regime in the Middle East or any other part of the world."

"We've seen in the past with countries like Iran that tying defence sales to the survival of particular governments or factions can lead to disaster."

Mike Summersby, president of Tyne Bridge Conservatives, said people in the North-east would inevitably see Mr Mas'ari's case in terms of "job protection". He added: "We have been hit harder than most when it comes to losing jobs."

Kevin Flynn, co-ordinator of the Newcastle Unemployed Workers' Centre, said it was "laughable for a government which had created the highest

unemployment levels ever in our area to talk about a threat to jobs, when they had every opportunity to prevent the destruction of the shipbuilding and mining industries and failed to intervene."

Vickers employs 740 people at its Newcastle factory, 750 at its Leeds plant and 160 in Wolverhampton, but the company's manufacturing supports about 6,000 people when engineering sub-contractors are included, according to a study by York University.

The company is bidding to supply Saudi Arabia with Challenger 2 battle tanks as part of a £3 billion order sought with other defence companies such as GKN and VSEL.

The order would form a lucrative follow-on to the Al Yamamah oil-for-weapons deal signed in the mid-1980s, and comes as the defence and aerospace industries struggle

to win business in the face of military spending cuts.

David Clelland, Labour MP for Tyne Bridge, said he was concerned about the effect the row may have on jobs in his constituency.

He also suggested the public would dislike the spectacle of the British government, democratically elected, being dictated to by Saudi Arabia.

Canon Peter Dodd, an industrial chaplain in Newcastle, said "a great deal of money" had been invested by Vickers in Tyneside, which was grateful for the skilled jobs in a region which had witnessed the collapse of the shipbuilding industry with the loss of 20,000 jobs.

Vickers employees would find the Saudi issue rather remote.

The problem of military exports versus free speech was "an intellectual poser" of more concern to broadsheet

readers in London than to workers at Vickers, he said.

MPs are to demand an inquiry into whether the circumstances surrounding the Government's deportation order against Mr Mas'ari involved an abuse of public funds, writes Richard Norton-Taylor.

Members of the Commons public accounts committee are to ask for an investigation into whether the plan to deport Mr Mas'ari to Dominica was linked in any way to the Government's decision to quadruple foreign aid to the Caribbean island, from £500,000 to £2 million.

Robert Sheldon, Labour chairman of the public accounts committee, refused to comment on the disclosure that Andrew Green, Britain's ambassador to Saudi Arabia, is a non-executive director at Vickers, but he made it clear he had not been told.



Milton Keynes sculptor Robert Koenig is seeking a home for his sculpture Boy and Girl, carved from a 200-year-old cedar, which is too big for his studio. PHOTOGRAPH: JOHN ROBERTSON

Dominica opposition to Mas'ari move grows

Seumas Milne

MOHAMMED al-Mas'ari, the Saudi dissident threatened with deportation to Dominica, is due to meet the leader of one of the Caribbean island's main opposition parties in London today, as discontent about his arrival continued in the capital of Roseau.

Rosie Douglas, leader of the leftist Dominica Labour

Party, is visiting Britain by chance and is expected to join the campaign against Mr Mas'ari's expulsion from Britain.

Opposition to the move in Dominica has already been voiced by the former prime minister, Eugenia Charles, who threatened to organise a blockade of the airport if the expulsion went ahead.

Dame Eugenia, who invited United States troops to invade Grenada in 1983, said Dominicans should

prevent Mr Mas'ari from disembarking at the island's tiny airport, Dominica, which had "enough problems without importing problems", would be unable to protect the Saudi exile, she said.

Dominica's acceptance of Mr Mas'ari has also been denounced by the island's main opposition leader, Brian Alleyne, of the right-wing Dominica Freedom Party, who said it threatened Dominica's own at-

tempts to "develop relations with countries like Saudi Arabia".

He also demanded to know what financial gain had been secured from Britain. Together Mr Alleyne and Mr Douglas have enough votes in Dominica's parliament to vote down the minority administration headed by Edison James, the prime minister.

Mr James said that Britain had given him assurances that Mr Mas'ari had

"not been involved in any criminal or terrorist activities, either in Saudi Arabia or in Britain".

The Foreign Office continued to insist there had been no "quid pro quo" increase in aid to Dominica, but the Overseas Development Administration said that British aid to Dominica was now "on track" to increase to £2 million from £500,000 last year as a result of the clearance of debt arrears.

US envoy's return could halt wave of IRA killings

David Sharrock
Ireland Correspondent

HOPES are rising that the wave of IRA murders of petty criminals which claimed five lives in as many weeks is drawing to a close, as the three-man commission on illegal arms returns to Belfast this week.

Sinn Fein yesterday made its second comment in three days on the murders, after it was goaded by John Major into a response to his challenge to stop the killings. Mr Major's hard tone was prefaced by his belief that the murders would stop once the international body, led by President Clinton's special envoy to Northern Ireland, George Mitchell, returns to the province and concludes its report.

The Prime Minister is likely to have made his assessment on the basis of briefings from Dublin about Sinn Fein and the IRA's intentions. A Sinn Fein delegation met Irish government officials on Friday, after which the party's vice-president, Pat Doherty, said Sinn Fein was trying to halt the killings.

Mr Doherty also said he ex-

pected to be in talks with both the British and Irish governments within a fortnight. The tenor of his comments was in marked contrast to those made 10 days ago by his colleague, Mitchell McLaughlin, when he said that British intransigence could lead to a resumption of hostilities.

Yesterday, however, by echoing the remarks of Mr Doherty, he appeared to give credence to Dublin's hope that the peace process is back on track. Mr McLaughlin was asked if Sinn Fein would use its influence to halt the murders. "I can answer that question in the affirmative."

"Sinn Fein is in fact attempting to use its influence to ensure that it doesn't happen, but we do not have the control to exercise over that situation that has been alleged. We never had that amount of control."

Dublin believes that the international body's report, which is expected in 10 days, will lead to an ending of the killings and punishment beatings, and possibly to a newly worded, stronger commitment by the IRA to maintain its ceasefire, possibly along the lines of the loyalists' "no first strike" pledge.

In those circumstances it would be hard to imagine Mr Major rejecting the report because it had not found in favour of his stated preference for a token handover of weapons as a confidence-building gesture.

The commission will be in London this Thursday, Dublin on Friday, and Belfast on Saturday.

Meanwhile the Ulster Unionist MP, Ken Maginnis, said the January 18 target date for its report should be extended.

"I think there should be at least another six weeks' latitude, given that there is every prospect of an inconclusive report coming out."

The commission was asked by Mr Major and the Irish prime minister to "identify and advise on a suitable and acceptable method for full and verifiable decommissioning, and report whether there is a clear commitment on the part of those in possession of such arms to work to achieve that".

It is believed the IRA has up to two tonnes of Semtex, 1,200 semi-automatic rifles, and as many as 20 surface-to-air missiles hidden on both sides of the border.

MPs see end to NHS dentistry

Chris Mihill
Medical Correspondent

MOST MPs believe dental treatment on the National Health Service will be available only to children and the poor within a few years, according to a survey published today.

The survey, for the British Dental Association, found that 44 per cent of Conservative MPs and 83 per cent of Labour MPs asked believe that within 10 years those who can afford to pay will be ineligible for NHS dentistry.

The association said that the survey highlighted the difficulties people already had in finding an NHS dentist unless they were poor or young. It is calling on the Government to increase funding to ensure NHS dentistry is available to everyone.

The survey of 160 MPs, by Harris Research, found that many had had complaints from constituents about the difficulties in finding an NHS dentist.

Nearly one in two MPs (48 per cent) had received complaints, including 48 per cent of Conservatives. The Tory MPs received more complaints about difficulties in finding a dentist than they did about British Gas and local electricity companies, and the complaints were on a par with those received about local water companies.

Nearly three-quarters of Labour MPs (74 per cent) and 3 per cent of Conservative

MPs said the Government was primarily to blame for the difficulties.

Bill Allen, chairman of the council of the British Dental Association, said: "The findings are a terrible indictment of the funding of NHS dentistry under this government. Government underfunding has forced many dentists out of the NHS. This survey confirms our fears that there is a serious lack of dental services available on the NHS in many parts of the country. If the Government does not take radical action to increase funding... the difficulties experienced by patients in finding an NHS dentist will get worse."

One-third of patients on dentists' lists are entitled to free treatment. The two-thirds of adults who pay for care contribute 80 per cent of the cost of treatment.

Over the past three years a growing number of dentists have said NHS fees are too small to cover costs, and increasing numbers will accept only private patients.

The intake of graduates training to become clinical psychologists needs to virtually double in order to meet the growing demands for psychological therapies in mental health, disabilities and other areas of medicine, the British Psychological Society says today.

There are 2,875 clinical psychologists working in the NHS, but according to NHS Executive figures there will be a need for 3,203 by 1998/99.

Carling reflects on reports that his wife is to seek a divorce

Sally Weale

WILL Carling was last night reflecting on reports that his estranged wife is to seek a divorce, but a friend said the English rugby captain would be "disappointed" if that was the outcome.

The statement issued by Mr Carling last September announcing their separation after weeks of speculation about his friendship with the Princess of Wales stressed it was temporary.

Reports yesterday, however, suggested that no reunion is expected. It is said that Mrs Carling will consult a lawyer to begin divorce proceedings in the next few weeks.

The reports, which come as the princess considers her own options following the Queen's plea for a speedy divorce, will ring alarm bells at Buckingham Palace, where there will be concern that the princess could be named in divorce proceedings.

Mr Carling, aged 30, has always denied having an affair with the princess.

Though Princess Diana was candid in her Panorama interview about her relationship with James Hewitt, she did not mention Mr Carling.

Last night a Buckingham Palace spokesman declined to comment.

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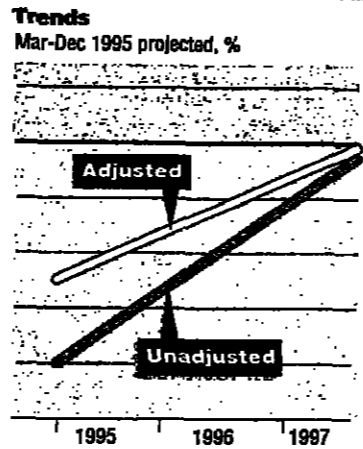
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Martin Linton finds upturn for Major in ICM's 3-monthly average on voting intentions, dating from his leadership challenge in June

Poll trend holds out hope for Tories

What Major has to do



JOHN MAJOR has a momentous task ahead in 1996, but the annual report of the Guardian's pollster ICM, released today, shows that the Conservatives have almost certainly turned the corner.

The monthly opinion polls have shown little change since the summer, but the rolling three-monthly ICM average shows a definite upturn, from an exceptionally low base, in the second half of 1995.

The three-monthly average can even identify the point when the recovery started: June — the month when Mr Major challenged his critics to a leadership election.

That will cheer Mr Major and his party chairman,

Brian Mawhinney, who has so far failed to find evidence in the polls that the leadership election has kickstarted their political recovery.

Month-on-month fluctuations and the confusion between adjusted and unadjusted polls have disguised a trend that has emerged in the past nine months.

On the adjusted and unadjusted figures, the three-monthly average follows an upward trend. It continues, the Tories could almost close the gap on Labour by May 1997, the general election deadline. The Labour lead will be 1 per cent adjusted and 3 per cent unadjusted. In December ICM shows Labour on 48 per cent adjusted and the Tories on 31 per cent.

ICM's report also gives Mr

Major and Dr Mawhinney clues to the voters they most need to win back if they are to stage what would still be a remarkable recovery.

Comparing the largest survey of voters after the 1992 election — conducted for the Rowntree Reform Trust — with polls for the whole of 1995, ICM can measure how far each group of voters has swung from the Tories.

Among the housing tenure groups, council tenants have swung the least — 11 per cent. People who have finished paying for their houses have swung by the average — 14 per cent. But people still paying a mortgage have swung the most — 17 per cent.

Among the income groups, the top and bottom have swung the least, and it is the

C1 and C2 middle-income groups — most likely to be struggling to pay mortgages — that have swung the most.

Among the age groups, the oldest have swung the least and the youngest, the 18-24s — again a group likely to be struggling with high mortgage payments — that have swung the most.

Mortgage holders form 43 per cent of the population, a group seen as vital to the Government's electoral chances.

That may help to explain why the Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke, seemed more concerned in his Budget strategy to cut the interest rate than the basic rate of income tax. The Budget failed to have an impact on Labour's lead on voting intention, 17 points in November and December, but

it did halve its lead as "the party with the best policies on the economy" from 18 points to nine.

Until Black Wednesday in September 1992, when Britain left the European exchange rate mechanism, the Government was always ahead of Labour on this economic index, which may explain why the Tories were able to close the gap on voting intentions before the 1992 election.

As long as people believed a Tory government would run the economy better, Labour's lead had a soft underbelly. People could be persuaded to switch back to the Tories when the election campaign concentrated their minds on the essentials. Now, however, Labour has a 33-24 per cent lead on economic policy.

Portillo 'damned by faint praise'

Michael White on how the stock of the Defence Secretary has taken a tumble

WHEN John Major yesterday praised Michael Portillo as a "highly talented" member of the Conservative Party's broad church, some listening Tory MPs were delighted. But others thought they heard the Prime Minister damning a turbulent colleague with faint praise after a year in which the Defence Secretary's stock has tumbled.

Once many centrist Conservative MPs were resigned to the prospect that Mr Portillo — just 20 days younger than Tony Blair — would emerge as a charismatic new Tory leader under a Labour government. Now it is much easier to find old sweats saying "he's blown it" or "if he wins, I'm not sure I'll want to stay in the party".

The Prime Minister gave no hint of reservations. "Michael is immensely patriotic, he's immensely proud of this country. There isn't a politician in the land, perhaps in retrospect, who wouldn't have phrased something differently," Mr Major told Sir David Frost on the Breakfast with Frost programme, when pressed about the Tory conference speech which brought both fury and disdain down on

the Defence Secretary's head. One leftist ex-minister said: "Less than fulsome, I thought." A rightwing Portillo-backer retorted: "A really big plug for Michael."

Blair aides watching the guest on the Frost sofa were also impressed. So disruptive have Mr Portillo's interventions become, the Labour leadership has decided to launch an official Portillo-watch to stir things up still further.

To Labour's delight Mr Portillo also angered some Tory MPs last week by saying that since Emma Nicholson was a Euro-federalist with "a history of disloyalty" it was right that she should join the Lib-Dems. They saw it as a divisive, sectarian response.

A last-ditch supporter of Mrs Thatcher's premiership, Mr Portillo thrives on controversy. What raised his profile so early in the new year was last week's decision, hastily reversed once Downing Street got wind of it, to announce the sale of Admiralty Arch at the top of the Mall in Whitehall.

Yesterday Portillo aides went out of their way to stress that their man knew nothing about a decision taken by the Department of the Environ-

Mixed messages

"We will not allow Brussels to control our defence policy... Britain will not be any Conservative government not to fight... Britain is blessed with brave soldiers, sailors and airmen, willing to give their lives. For Britain. Not for Brussels." Michael Portillo, Blackpool, October 11

"He made an ugly, juvenile, unpleasant speech." Paddy Ashdown

"They were light-hearted remarks, rabble-rousing remarks which worked on the day." John Redwood

"He has gone over the top. He has damaged the Conservative image, he has damaged himself." Sir Leon Brittan

"I stripped away all the waffle and fudge and any Euro-speak and I said that any Conservative government is not going to allow Britain to be drawn into a European superstate. I don't regret any of the language I have used." Michael Portillo, BBC1

"The Liberal Democrats are a federalist party and if that is what Emma believes in then she is right to leave us. But it is very silly to say that the party has tilted to the right. That's completely incredible." Michael Portillo, January 1, Radio 4

ment which had managed the building since the Ministry of Defence moved out in 1994.

True, the historic boardroom of the Old Admiralty building was not to be sold. But, so soon after the decision to lease Inigo Jones's great palace at Greenwich, it enraged an impressive swathe of opinion-formers.

Curiously enough, senior Tories on both sides of the Portillo divide were quick to blame the same adviser as well as brains. Mr Portillo failed — as John Redwood did not —

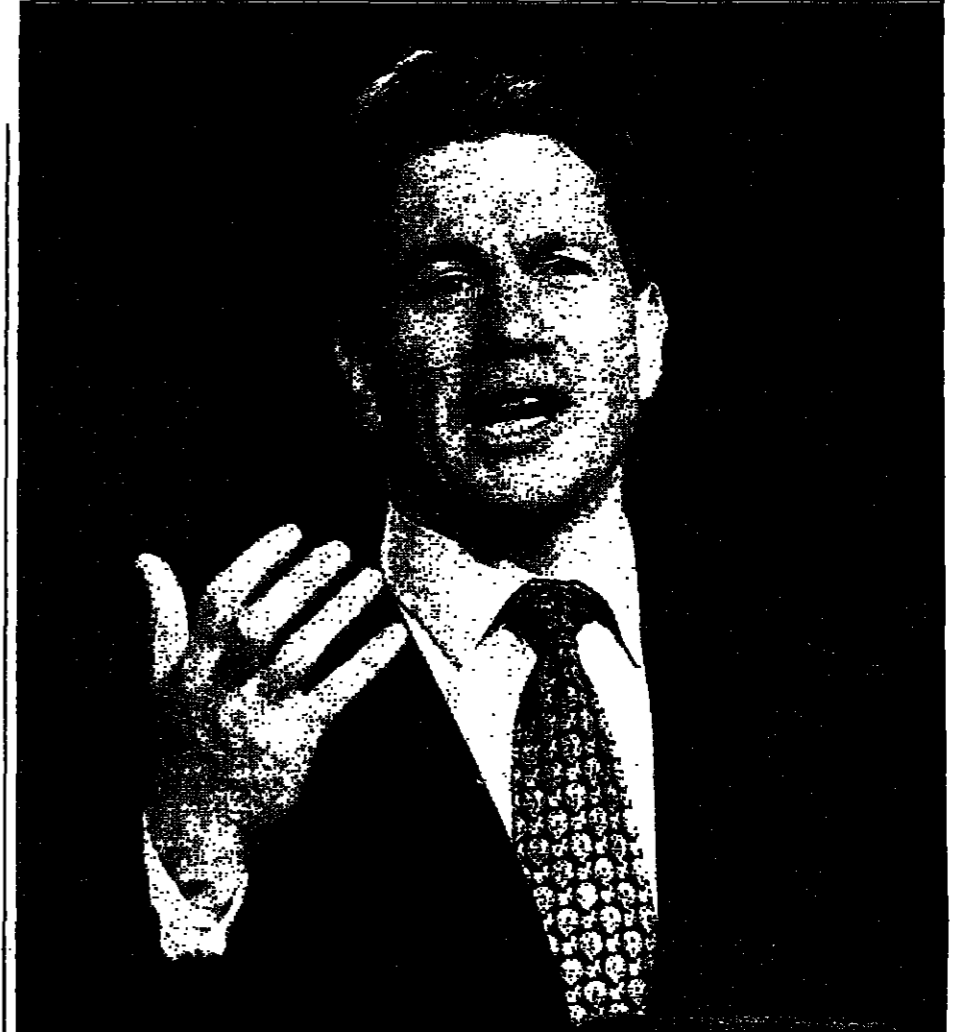
to pick up the leadership torch that whirled the Prime Minister threw down in July.

Fearing to strike, he also hesitated initially to back Mr Major and allowed eager supporters (the Hart factor again, say critics) to install phone lines at a Westminster house that would have served as his campaign HQ in the second round.

When the victorious Major reshuffled his team, Mr Portillo was shifted from employment, where anti-European posturing is easy, to defence, where a chap must either spend or cut, thus offending either the economic right or the Union Jack right.

Then came the conference speech with its bombastic rhetoric about "not allowing Brussels to control our defence policy" and "harmonising uniforms and cap badges" — not to mention the "don't mess with Britain" passage about the SAS. The speech offended MPs and senior officers alike.

His capacity to articulate what grassroots Tory activists feel makes the son of a MP who doubts John Redwood's staying power will keep them in their portfolios.



Michael Portillo... disruptive interventions and thriving on controversy

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Blair ponders 'tiger' welfare

Forced savings scheme interests Labour, writes Nick Cumming-Bruce

AS Tony Blair makes the rounds of Singaporean ministers and business leaders today, the shadow social affairs minister, Chris Smith, will arrive for a close inspection of the social security system that helps nourish this Asian tiger.

Mr Blair left no doubt yesterday that Singapore's compulsory savings scheme, the Central Provident Fund, is a subject of particular interest as he raises the goal of a stakeholder economy and commits Labour to the wholesale reform of Britain's social security system.

"It is very important on our agenda to see how we can get the best out of our welfare system," Mr Blair said. "It is not functioning the way that it should. It is not helping those who are the poorest in our society nor is it providing people with the encouragement and incentives they need to get back into work."

The Labour leader emphasises the dangers of drawing parallels between countries with different systems and circumstances. Privatisation of welfare is not on his agenda but finding a way to bring savings in Britain up from under 20 per cent of GDP and closer to Singapore's 30 per cent, over 40 per cent most certainly is.

But even Singaporeans, weaned in a nanny state that reserves the right to dictate how they conduct their lives, chafe under restrictions on when they can spend their savings, and how they can spend them, even after retirement.

Singaporean analysts did not miss the irony of British politicians coming back to study a savings system first conceived by Singapore's British colonial rulers. They introduced a savings scheme based on contributions of 5 per cent of workers' salaries, with contributions split evenly between employer and employee. Lee Kuan Yew, the former premier, kicked it into a higher gear, raising contributions to a hefty 40 per cent of wages for all workers under the age of 55, paying a modest 2.5 per cent interest.

The scheme is designed to look after the needs of workers when they retire in a system that offers no social security benefits or subsidised health service.

But the 58 million Singapore dollars (nearly £28 billion) in the fund provides a massive capital resource for the kind of long term infrastructure development schemes that make this tiny island state the envy of its neighbours.

The fund, Mr Blair said, has certainly done the job for people in Singapore.

Mr Smith, however, may find that depends on who you talk to. Singaporeans may relish the pristine and efficient physical environment built in the past 30 years with the help of their money.

But even Singaporeans, weaned in a nanny state that reserves the right to dictate how they conduct their lives, chafe under restrictions on when they can spend their savings, and how they can spend them, even after retirement.

Nicholson rules out byelection

Geoffrey Gibbs

EMMA Nicholson yesterday vowed to fight on as MP for West Devon and Torridge in the face of calls for a byelection and separate allegations that her new party had used dirty tricks to influence a newspaper telephone poll on the issue.

An ICM poll of 500 constituents for yesterday's Observer showed more than half believed she should resign and bring about a byelection.

But Ms Nicholson, who returns to the Commons tomorrow for the first time since her defection to the Liberal Democrats, said she had been overwhelmed by the letters of support she had received for her decision to quit the Conservatives. She had no intention of standing down.

"I have been utterly clear from day one when I said I did not want a byelection. The Government has it within its powers to stall the date of a byelection and I don't want to deprive my constituents of their voice in Parliament."

A telephone poll conducted last week among readers of

the Western Morning News came out three to one against the suggestion that Ms Nicholson should resign.

The result was in marked contrast to an earlier poll carried out by Westcountry Television and to the ICM poll in the Observer.

In a blistering attack on the Liberal Democrats on Saturday, the Plymouth based newspaper said Willie Rennie, the party's campaigns officer for Devon and Cornwall, had admitted trying to influence the result by contacting organisers in West Country constituencies to encourage them to take part.

It accused the Lib-Dems in a leading article of "disgraceful dirty tricks" to manipulate the outcome of the poll. It said the paper and its readers had been misled about the true state of public opinion, and called the party's behaviour sleazy and cynical.

Mr Rennie could not be contacted for comment yesterday. A national party spokesman dismissed the paper's allegations.

Ralph Dunn, deputy editor of the WMN said the polls were carried out in good faith.

"No matter what I do, what talents and abilities I display, I will never be seen as a bright young man, I'll only ever be old George who hasn't done badly, has he?"

G2 cover story

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Terence Cuneo

History in the detail

TERENCE CUNEO, who has died aged 88, was one of the most popular artists of our times. Yet on another level he was a complete failure. If giving pleasure to many kinds of people is an indication of artistic excellence, then Cuneo will have to be regarded among the greatest of 20th century British artists. However he is unrepresented in the Tate Gallery.



War paint... Terence Cuneo with his painting of the Scots Guards attack at Tumbledown

He was a trait painter - one of that kind rare today, to whom historians will turn. It was hardly surprising Cuneo was called upon to paint people like King Hussein of Jordan, Edward Heath and Field Marshal Montgomery. He could always catch a likeness, and he had an eye for both character and the nature of a role.

was manifested in his paintings of mice in human guise, and in his portrait of Surgeon Commander Ebenezer Bibbous-Smith RN. He was a man who in Cuneo's own words "Served aboard Her Majesty's frigate Flounder from 1880 to 1881 when, owing to an unfortunate diagnosis concerning the Admiral's spleen, he resigned his commission and took a post as veterinary surgeon, ashore."

Harry McLavy

Staying on the case

HARRY McLEVY, who has died aged 59, was Scottish orator of the Amalgamated Engineering and Electrical Union. Apart from national service, he spent a lifetime in the engineering industry, as a shop steward, a convenor, as Dundee district secretary and as a rank and file militant on the left of the often deeply-riven union.



Great Scot... Harry McLavy, faithful to the struggle

our yard they'll have to bring the Black Watch... they'll have to winkle us out one by one. During the seventies, at a time of intense class struggle in Britain...

Yahya Ayyash

A war of the shadows

YAHYA Ayyash, who was professionally assassinated in the Gaza Strip, inspired the strongest of feelings. For Israelis, he was a demon; a mass murderer who sent his own acolytes to their deaths alongside their victims.

Appreciation: Lincoln Kirstein

IN HIS piece on Lincoln Kirstein (obituary, January 6) Dale Harris concluded that Kirstein would be best remembered as the champion of men greater than himself, yet I always thought of Lincoln as the greatest living American - the man who brought Balanchine to New York in 1933, and under whose guidance Balanchine and Stravinsky collaborated on Agon (1947).

Letter

Peter Cotes writes: Charlie Chaplin's relationship with Lita Grey Chaplin (obituary, January 6) provided the sole occasion in the comedian's career when he was unable to make a leading lady appear to be expert. There was Georgia Hale in The Gold Rush, Myrna Kennedy (The Circus), Virginia Cherrill (City Lights), Paulette Goddard in Modern Times and The Great Dictator, and of course Edna Purviance, his star in A Woman of Paris and his earliest two-reelers.

Birthdays

- Shirley Bassey, singer, 58; David Bowie, rock musician and actor, 45; John Cabill, chairman, British Aerospace, 66; Robin Ellis, actor, 54; Prof Stephen Hawking CBE, FRS, mathematician, 54; Andrew Hunter, Conservative MP, 53; Howard Jones, governor, Belmarsh prison, 52; Air Commodore Joan Metcalfe, former director, RAF Nursing Services, 72; Yvette Mimieux, actress, 57; Ron Moody, actor, 72; Hanan Mori, fashion designer, 70; Bob Farry, Labour MP, 63; Ken Purvis, Labour MP, 57; Imelda Staunton, Labour MEP, 57; Prof Brian Reddaway, economist, 83; Charles Tomlinson, poet and professor of English, Bristol University, 62; Galina Ulanov, former prima ballerina, 86; Geoffrey Whalen, manager, director and deputy chairman, Penguin Talk, 62; Prof Alan Wilson, vice-chancellor, University of Leeds, 57.

Death notices

Lowie, On Jan 3rd 1998 in the Argyle Park Nursing Home, Southport, Eric aged 76 years, retired from the Royal Navy. He was survived by his wife, three sons and five daughters. He was cremated at the Crematorium, Southport on Monday, Jan 5th 1998 at 11.45 AM. Burial in the family grave, St. Peter's Church, Southport. Donations to the Royal National Society for the Blind, 100, Victoria Road, Southport, Merseyside, L35 9EF.

Jackdaw



PEOPLE have been moving animals and plants about, by accident or by design, for at least the past 10,000 years... when Neolithic people first went to live on the islands of Orkney around 5,000 years ago, they took with them red deer, domestic animals and probably inadvertently, wild species (Microtus arvalis), which rapidly became established and proliferated. It appears from the skeletal remains of pine martens in a Neolithic tomb that these carnivores were also introduced at this time, and it is tempting to suggest that the martens were brought over from Scot-

land in an effort to reduce the numbers of voles... Last summer an alarm was raised in Israel when it was thought that piranhas had been introduced into the Sea of Galilee. However, the fish have been found to be relatively harmless herbivores... Rainos of Christopher Lacer's book, Naturalized Animals, Times Literary Supplement

going to destroy the earth (although it is)... it's that it doesn't make us unbelievably happy. Mother Jones magazine looks at the last and next 20 years

Don't call us SWISS PTT issued a promotional card (without the white optical track)... This card was given to passengers on the morning flight to Geneva. I did not get one of these cards... I did not see any other special cards for the exhibition itself, but Slovak Telecom gave away their 1994 catalogue... MMT is a Russian telco using Umet cards... the cards on the stand were probably dummy cards. The poor English of the people on the stand and my poor Russian meant that detailed information was hard to get. I will contact Moscow for more information... I finally have some news from Indonesia. One of the biggest supermarkets has issued these cards with fruits on them, including the Durian, 100 units and the Grape, 100 units... A private Coca-Cola card has been released in Pakistan. I do not think this card is a real issue, but it is in fact an overprint. The reason I say this is that the control number can be seen under the surface of the paint... I expect this will be on people's want list. Meticulous reporting from beyond the valley of the anoraks - International Telephone Cards magazine

King sized TRUE-BLUE Elvis fans know that "The King" would have been 61 years old [today]. But here are some facts that may surprise you: ● His natural hair colour wasn't black. It was a light blondish - but he dyed it to copy singer Roy Orbison, who had black hair. ● Elvis is from the Norwegian name "Alvis" which means "all wise" ● At one time, Elvis was the largest single taxpayer in the US... he reached the 91 per cent tax bracket! ● His shoe size was 11-D. But he wore size 12 combat boots when he was in the Army. ● Elvis' favourite reading material: books on the spiritual and the occult. Whenever Elvis went on tour, he took more than 250 books packed in two trunks. When he died on Aug. 16, 1977, he was in his bathroom reading The Shroud of Turin. ● Elvis' last words were in response to his girlfriend Ginger Alden's warning not to fall asleep in the bathroom. His reply: "OK, I won't. Nobody does this kind of thing better than the National Enquirer"

Lone gunman HE IS A Loner - that pearl of great social price, whose scarcity and evasiveness doubles his market value. If you succeed in battling through the false trails of discontinued telephone numbers and the thickets of discouraging answering-machine messages... then you are in for an exhilarating ride. The temperature rises when he comes through the door. The Loner is not boring. He may be mad, his appearance eccentric, but he is not married, mortgaged

are unconfiding and untrusting, even when they manage to take a civil interest. Their domestic lives tend to be obsessive and faddish. You are unlikely to be invited into a Loner's dwelling, but if you are, you can be sure it will not be comfortable or welcoming... you will be confronted by a bedsit of stomach-churning nastiness last decorated during the Festival of Britain, illuminated by one bare light-bulb... ungraced by the standard amenities of bath or fridge. Sounds like Paradise, dear; Rupert Christiansen in Harpers & Queen

Ordinary folk THE WORLD as a whole, rather than just the richest bits of it, is now developing its first mass middle-class: people who can afford to travel, to telephone around the world, to pick and choose from a global culture and to get a westernised education. These are the people who are most likely to learn, and accept, the "different-but-

Education... Wealth... National Enquiring mind... Edited by Vanessa Howl

Edited by Vanessa Howl

Monday January 8 1996

Highly trained workforce is worthy ideal but does not provide complete answer to the demand for growth

Educated guesses are wide of mark



Will Hutton

EDUCATION and training are like apple pie and motherhood. After all, the better trained and educated the workforce, the better the performance of the economy and the more just the society.

Although such protestations are self-evidently true, they fall short of providing a robust guide to just how much a government can rely on education and training to deliver the growth process. A well-educated and trained workforce may be a necessary condition for growth, but plainly it is not sufficient. So what else has to be done?

With the Labour Party making education and training one of its bedrock policy areas, the whole question is jumping up the league table of economic and political salience. Here is one area of policy where the Labour leader talks — as he did in Tokyo last week and in Singapore today — confidently and credulously.

In a world in which the barriers that inhibit firms and capital from moving across national borders are falling, Tony Blair argued, the only way for a necessarily less mobile workforce to empower itself is to offer ever more creativity and productivity — and that means more education and training. Britain, he declared, had to be the knowledge capital of Europe.

This is a noble and just cause. Even if there were few economic advantages, education and training are public goods in their own right and Britain has far too long not given them priority. But there is a danger in going over the top, in so elevating education and training's economic importance that they are given the status of a growth theory in their own right. The politics of this are obvious; the economics much less so.

Labour politicians can say something which is economically and morally right, and which sits more easily with centre-left values than those of new-right Conservatives. More importantly, education and training offer no disturbing challenge to any of capitalism's cherished freedoms, indeed, by raising productivity they offer business higher returns.

But what about the economics? Again, while there is no disputing the value of education and training, recent research is sobering about how much they can achieve by themselves. The necessary expenditure to close income inequality, raise skill levels and lower unemployment is vast; the pay-offs are slow, and unless education and

training are embedded in a wider array of policies, notably raising levels of investment and expectations of future demand, the results are likely to be variable at best — disappointing at worst.

The international evidence on training is particularly disappointing. And even quality education, as the Japanese have just proved, cannot save an economy from the consequences of external shocks like an overvalued yen. Indeed, five years of currency overvaluation, delivered by those fated global financial markets, have rendered a generation of high-quality Japanese education powerless.

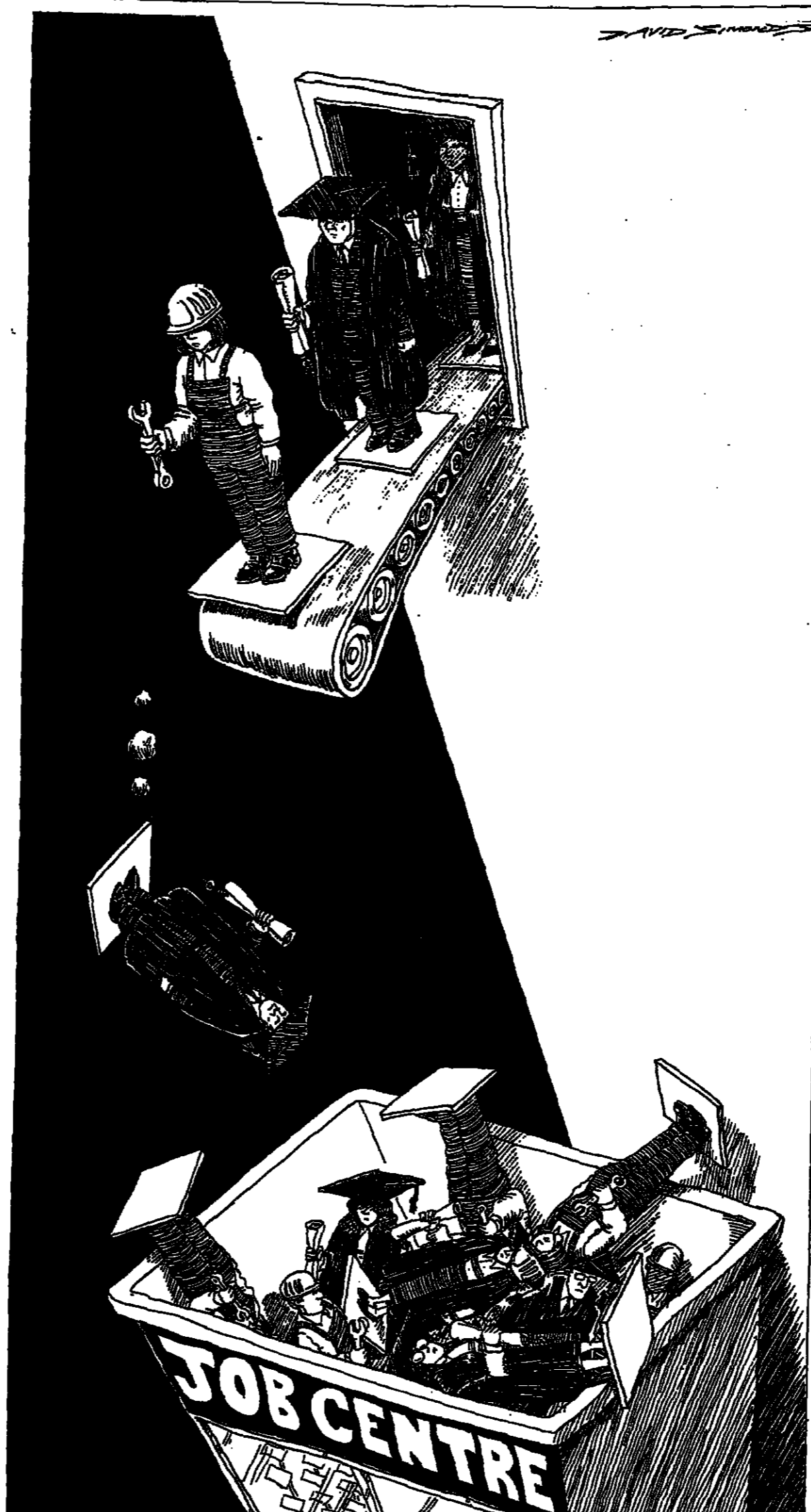
Worse, if globalisation is understood so to minimise a country's macro-economic options that it cannot organise an expansionary monetary and fiscal policy, then one of the paradoxes is that education and training spending will have lower returns, not higher.

Nobody argues that growing unemployment and rising income inequality are not caused by low skills; the issue is by how much. The emerging consensus is that educational and training shortfalls explain about 20 per cent of the problem.

RICHARD Freeman and Larry Katz say in one American study (Working Under Different Rules, Russell Sage, 1994) that between 7 and 25 per cent of rising inequality is due to inadequate skills; while Steve Nickell and Brian Bell (Oxford Review of Economic Policy, Vol 11, No 1) found that in Britain the decline in real demand for unskilled workers contributed up to 20 per cent of the long-run increase in unemployment between the 1960s and 1980s. These are important figures — but the other 80 per cent of the story needs to be addressed as well.

Another difficulty is that the consensus policy responses do not work very well. International studies show that job creation schemes, whether in the form of job subsidies or reductions in social overheads, have little or no long-run effect — largely because any new jobs tend to displace old ones. And reducing social overheads, which ministers endlessly intone as the sole means to lower unemployment, has little or no impact either in Denmark where employers pay no social security contributions, Nickell and Bell say that unemployment is around the EU average.

This conforms with what elementary economic theory would predict. If employers are relieved of paying social security contributions, in the long run they pay workers that part of the real product wage that used to go in social security contributions. In other words, workers' wages rise as the social security "wedge" is reduced — and the long-run employment-boosting impact is nil. Employers' national insurance contributions are an excellent way of raising reve-



and lowering real wages with no long-run unemployment effects — and government policy has been completely wrong in this area as in so many, shrivelling the tax base for no long-run employment gains. Training, at least, offers more certain returns — but

wage expectations above what employers could pay. Training, they say, is not the saviour of the European unemployment problem. The assessment from the US is equally sobering. Professor Barry Bluestone of the University of Massachusetts reports (American Prospect,

man of the University of Chicago says that to improve the educational attainment of the bottom half of the US population to take income inequality back to 1979 levels would cost \$2 trillion. In British terms that is equivalent to spending around £250 billion!

The larger point is that the industrialised world is suffering from a multitude of shocks to which education and training can offer only a partial response. In the US, Freeman and Katz identify de-industrialisation, de-unionisation, low-cost competition, immigration and the US trade deficit as explaining the other 80 per cent of rising unemployment and inequality. Prof Bluestone responds by saying that stronger trade unions, redistributive taxation and active trade and industrial policies are part of a balanced policy response along with education and training — and all within a programme aiming to raise demand and investment levels.

Competition

Only one week left to enter your economic forecasts for 1996. Predictions for GDP growth and underlying inflation this year, the seasonally adjusted claimant count of unemployment for December 1996, house prices — based on annual growth in the Halifax index — and how much the Chancellor cuts the standard rate of income tax, on a postcard to The Guinness Economics Desk, 119 Farringdon Road, London EC1R 3ER. A magnum of Champagne for the winner!

only marginally. In the above-mentioned Oxford Review, Lars Calmfors and Per Skedinger analyse the impact of Sweden's training programmes, and while they do better than job creation schemes in lowering unemployment the results were "very unstable". Sometimes training hit the jackpot; but sometimes increased unemployment by raising workers'

Winter 1995) that most US training schemes launched since the 1980s have shown dubious returns, and even when they are successful the advantages in higher earnings and employment are small. As for using education to solve the problem, US estimates on how much potential spending is involved are mind-boggling. James Heck-

demonstrating in a survey of nine countries that the crucial determinant of productivity is not skills but managerial capacity and strategy. Well-organised, long-termist firms are the keys to economic success; not training in itself.

The good news is that Mr Blair is beginning to recognise this. In his Singapore speech he touched on the question with more conviction than he has since he became leader, talking of building a stakeholder economy where companies with reformist legal and managerial structures could generate more trust, long-termism and creativity between managers and workers. The beginnings of a rounded approach are discernible — but it will mean a tougher line for the City and corporate governance than New Labour has so far seemed ready for.

If Labour is to succeed in government it will need to build up these ideas even more. Education and training cannot stand alone, but to say so does more means moving beyond the policies of apple pie and motherhood — and challenging the interests of the powerful. Reforming capitalism has never implied anything else.

Wealth cascading down the drain

Commentary Chris Benjamin

WITH mutterings that the business cycle has peaked, we'll soon be back in Bettie Davis economics: "Fasten your seatbelts, it's going to be a bumpy night". Groping in the dark jargon such as "levelling-off", "soft landings" and "bottoming out" has become all too familiar, but of all the soundbites inflicted on us, the prize must go to "wealth cascading down the generations". Allusions to water in Britain demand a Biblical self-

insurance in levitation — little cascading anywhere except through leaks. But sloshing buckets of wealth around? Most people are still suffering the negative gravity of "trickle-down" while some water companies have plumbed the apogee of Britain's brand of capitalism, where executive rewards are inversely related to the water coming out of the taps. At least we now have a vivid demonstration that pursuing "shareholder value" and linked "boardroom incentives" have no relation to actual performance for customers. British industry has been foundering on this anomaly for decades. Today, many famous names

are just brass-plates for foreign ownership, or shells for imported value-added and sterling has continued its inexorable decline towards parity with coach-shells. By any measure of what is passed on to future generations, the nation's wealth has sunk — any cascade is now a trickle. With the cushiest rewards for economists in the City, we need to look elsewhere for the link between industry and wealth that guides more successful nations. Our most serious national failure has been the collapse of productive power, reflected today in rising desperation: mid-life managers downsized or out of a job; lottery frenzy; zonked-out hoodlums; and ex-

ecutives scrambling for an extra million in severance. The origins of politicians' ideas for running a country have always been a mystery. "Cascading" has a distinctly Freudian ring but other seasonal suggestions have been pantomimes and children's games. For realism, another set of pieces is needed — various forms of stirrup-pumps, representing lawyers, accountants, banks, brokers, investment funds etc. And each deal requires a fee to some of these. Whoever wins or loses, the stirrup-pumps go on. The nearest to a steady cascade around. Chris Benjamin was under-secretary of state at the Department of Trade and Industry

Water firms need mutual principle

Debate Gerald Holtham

GRAND companies rise and fall. The mastodons of a hundred years back, railway and steamship companies, are now either deceased or transformed beyond recognition. Corporate structures change too. In our own time, these pillars of financial services, the building societies, are slowly passing from the scene. Or at least the mutual, or co-operative, principle, which underlay the societies, is being put to death in the financial sector. That is inevitable. Mutuality still has great work to do but its contemporary calling is elsewhere.

In finance, there are still 81 institutions organised on the mutual principle, but they are generally losing out to the hundreds of banks and insurance companies registered in London, which are organised as p.lcs. Two large building societies have converted to plc status and more will undoubtedly do the same way. The difference is in the capital structure. In a plc, shareholders put up equity capital and "own" the company. More equity capital can be obtained by rights issues. In a mutual, the users of the company's services become "members" and acquire voting rights to the board of the company. The savers in a building society, for example, provide its capital, and they all get one vote.

In contrast to the last century, when the mutual societies began, personal relationships count for little today, and people would increasingly rather have a higher interest rate on their savings (or a lower one on their loan) than have a vote. The plc banks' advantages in obtaining capital give them a competitive edge and the customers are voting with their feet. But that does not mean the mutual principle is, or should be, dead in general. It sprang up originally where people could not get access to a competitive market for financial services, because information was lacking to support mutual confidence between people and corporations. Now that financial markets are very competitive and the information revolution continues to reduce costs, there is no need for mutuals there.

IN OTHER sectors, however, customer citizens are still denied access to competitive markets, notably in utilities, such as water. What better way to serve their interests than the old mutual principle? The abiding flaw in privatisation was that it put the cart before the horse. What do we want from a public utility? That it provide the best possible service to customers, in an equitable way, making as efficient use as possible of inputs of labour and capital. But we have created companies whose first aim is to

make money for directors and shareholders, incidentally providing a service. That is the wrong way round. Where technical change is opening up the possibility of genuinely competitive markets, as in telecommunications, it may not matter too much. With decent regulation everything might come out in the wash. But where a natural monopoly will persist, we need to align the incentives of the directors of those companies with what we and the consumers want them to be. Any manager of a mutual will tell you that he does not have to worry only about the people who provide the capital, the shareholders. He has to worry about the customers or "members" too. Indeed, they may be the same people. The same two-handed approach should be used in the water industry.

When the water company asks you to pay a meter, you should become a "member" with a voting right to the board. After all, you are far more securely locked into that company than any shareholder, who can sell his holding on a whim. To be free, he just calls his broker... you have to dig a well.

WITH over half the board of a utility elected by members, managers would have very incentive to study customers' interests. Cash flow would be channelled to reduce prices or make investments to improve water supply, not to capricious diversifications. Nonetheless, the meaning of a share would change. It would command a vote, but shareholders as a group would no longer control the board. They would become just one of two important sets of stakeholders. Shares could be bought and sold without altering corporate control. As long as the members were happy the board would be safe from hostile takeover.

Water is an absolute necessity supplied under conditions of absolute monopoly. Nothing could be more free of risk. That is what makes mega-profits from water so outrageously unjustified. The outrageous way to finance investment in that sector is by issuing long-term bonds. All water companies are under-geared. Mutual companies would prefer debt to expensive equity. The beauty of this structure is that the country could dispense with much of the apparatus of industry regulation. Some may object that it is too late. What about water companies that have bought up other companies and merged with them? They will need to form a new holding company. The Conservatives with their ideological obsession with free market capitalism are unlikely to favour this model. It simply leaves a four-point government with the opportunity to do something novel and popular. Gerald Holtham is director of the Institute for Public Policy Research

Christmas spirit for all seasons

Worm's eye Dan Atkinson

WHAT joy this Yuletide has given those of us who get pleasure from listening to businessmen whine about how "the country goes to sleep for a fortnight". Consequently, they say, "it is impossible to do business in the UK" during this intolerable period of sloth. For once, this was true — and we were all the better for it. A freeze on business activity meant a freeze on takeovers, mergers, sackings and other forms of worthless (indeed, worse than worthless) "enterprise".

To prevent financial interest dodging these restrictions, the shutdown periods would have to be enforced more strictly than current bank holidays. Any business deals struck during these breaks would be void, as would any deal that could be shown to have been originated during the closed periods. All use of employed labour other than by the 999 services and for national defence would be prohibited. In this way, perhaps one quarter of the year will be reclaimed from "business" — much as sheep and exhausted quaries can be reclaimed for the landscape. Imagine: three whole months without sackings, "downsizings", pointless takeovers, "text finance" share options, real privatisations and the rest of the seamy "enterprise culture".

So here is the olive branch: New Year's Day, inaugurated by the Heath government to "celebrate" our immersion in the European Community, January 1 is a bank holiday the English and Welsh can do without (the Scots will have to surrender January 2). Hangover, unhealthy, bogus, artificially jolly — a perfect Euro-holiday, in fact. Take it, with the compliments of the season. Any season.

In the spirit of goodwill, however, it is necessary to throw big business just a little something. So here is the olive branch: New Year's Day, inaugurated by the Heath government to "celebrate" our immersion in the European Community, January 1 is a bank holiday the English and Welsh can do without (the Scots will have to surrender January 2). Hangover, unhealthy, bogus, artificially jolly — a perfect Euro-holiday, in fact. Take it, with the compliments of the season. Any season.

Tourist rates - bank sells

Australia 2.03	France 7.40	Italy 2.410	Singapore 2.17
Austria 15.15	Germany 2.1800	Malta 0.54	South Africa 5.48
Belgium 44.50	Greece 385.00	Netherlands 2.4500	Spain 182.00
Canada 2.05	Hong Kong 11.78	New Zealand 2.32	Sweden 10.15
Cyprus 0.6975	India 54.68	Norway 3.84	Switzerland 1.76
Denmark 8.49	Ireland 0.9550	Portugal 227.00	Turkey 88.448
Finland 8.70	Israel 4.86	Saudi Arabia 5.79	USA 1.5100

Indicators

TODAY — UK: Final M4 (Nov); GEM Manufacturing Orders (Nov); US: Consumer Credit (Nov); JPs: Current account (Nov).
 TOMORROW — GEM: Unemployment (Dec).
 WEDNESDAY — UK: Whole World Trade (Oct).
 THURSDAY — FFB: Banque de France Council Meeting; FFB: Press Conference on Annual Report.
 GEM: Preliminary GDP (Nov); UK: Industrial Production (Nov); UK: Manufacturing Production (Nov); US: Producer Prices (Dec); US: PPI Excl. F & E (Dec).
 FRIDAY — UK: CBI Distributive Trades Survey (Dec); US: Consumer Prices (Dec); US: Retail Sales (Dec).
 Source: HSBC Markets Research.

Cricket

Ramprakash flops on the road to stupidity

Matthew Engel in Cape Town
TRADITIONAL cricket is over for this winter but, as England climbed out of their whites and into their jim-jams for more than two months of one-day games, the most enduring traditions go on.

second team, which is why the game was not that unimportant. The touring party, as revamped for the one-day games, now has 19 players and seven who were not in the Test team played on Saturday, all mustard-keen to force themselves into the one-day side proper.

It was precisely a year and a day since the end of the Sydney Test which established him, very temporarily, as the most exciting young star in the game.

theoretically, only Test match ticket-holders were being admitted, the profile was both younger and blacker than the Test crowd. Many of the English supporters may have been on strike, angry about the uncomfortable seats they were allocated by the ground authority, which has led to a formal protest letter from four-group leaders.

Vintage Richardson helps end Australia's run

RICHIE RICHARDSON, the West Indies captain, made a timely return to form as his side confirmed their revival by beating Australia by 14 runs in a limited-overs World Series game in Brisbane.

five days with 14 balls to spare in a tense finish at The Gabba. Richardson scored an outstanding 81 in a vintage display which helped lift his side to 231 all out from 49.3 overs.

Muttiah Muralitharan, who is at the centre of a controversy over throwing. Kalpage, an orthodox off-spinner and left-handed middle-order batsman, will join the squad in Melbourne tomorrow.

Racing

Man still looks a paler Dessie

COMPARISONS are odorous, of course, but they are the currency of racing. No sooner had One Man destroyed his field in the King George VI Tripleprint Chase at Sandown on Saturday than the merit of his victory was being measured against the achievements of Desert Orchid, racing's most famous grey.

Ladbrokes offer 5-4 about One Man for the Gold Cup. Gamblers Anonymous should be sent a list of takers. Coral's 7-4 is the best price, but it is worth remembering that not only was One Man disappointing over Cheltenham's unforgiving fences behind Monsieur Le Cure two years ago, but Master Oats was almost certainly below his best on Saturday.

The Hennessy Gold Cup at Leopardstown on February 4 is a possible race for the Gold Cup winner, who is 8-1 with Coral for a repeat victory. There is probably only a pot or two between the performances of Master Oats at Cheltenham and One Man at Sandown, but Gordon Richards believes his horse was fractionally short of peak fitness on Saturday, is better suited by good ground and, as a relatively youthful eight-year-old, has further improvement in him.

There is the present generation of hurdlers fails to stir the blood, at least the staying chasers are a fine vintage. It is dubious to elevate horses on the strength of a single performance, but judging by their respective victories in the Gold Cup and the King George, Master Oats and One Man are among the best half-dozen three-mile steeplechasers since Arkle towered above his contemporaries.

Celtic could be fit for Dubai

PETER SAVILL will decide in the next 10 days whether Celtic Swing will be trained for the Dubai World Cup, writes Graham Rank.

Saturday to see River North contest the Ing Baringa Tolworth Hurdle, but his group 1 winner failed to quicken in the straight and finished fifth behind another hurdling debutant, Right Win.

The preliminary for the Dubai World Cup, to be run at Nad Al Sheba on March 27, will be announced today. Celtic Swing, Pennepack and Celtic are expected to be among those selected for the 10-furlong event, which carries prize money of \$4 million.

David Bridgwater added Volunteer to Born To Be Wild, Most Equal and Drabogie (Martin Pipe's treble) to complete a four-timer at Warwick on Saturday.

Southwell (A.W. Flat)

Table with 2 columns: Race details and Odds. Includes races like 12.25 TYPICAL APPOINTMENT HANDICAP and 12.50 WIGLOW HANDICAP.

Table with 2 columns: Race details and Odds. Includes races like 1.45 VENTURE HANDICAP and 1.55 WIGLOW HANDICAP.

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Gatecrasher... England's Phillip DeFreitas is bowled by Meyrick Pringle at Newlands.

Sport in brief

Radcliffe proves her class with second win

PAULA RADCLIFFE'S victory in Malinsk, her second in successive weeks in the Coca-Cola international cross-country series, has added to her reputation as a runner of world class. The 22-year-old London-born student, who last week won the Durban race, covered the 48km course in 16min 28sec in the teeth of a gale. She pulled away from Kenya's Rose Cheruyot 800m from the finish after the pair had led the rest of the field trailing in the early stages.

Three in a row for Tomba

ALBERTO TOMBA produced another brilliant second run to sweep to his third consecutive slalom victory in the men's Alpine slalom World Cup race at Flachau, Austria yesterday. The Italian was fourth going into the second leg but burst from the start but and stormed down the Griesenerkar course, clocking the second-best time of 53.05sec and a winning combined time of 1min 41.65sec.

Germany to bypass Bosman

Germany's 36 first and second division soccer clubs have voted to maintain by 'gentlemen's agreement' a limit of three foreign players per side, even though it has been outlawed by the European Court after the Jean-Marc Bosman case. However, after the 36 vote in Frankfurt, Bayern Munich's president Franz Beckenbauer said he doubted whether the agreement - which the German Football Federation (DFB) has no means to enforce - would hold. 'What happens when a club is struggling for survival, a thousand supporters are clamouring outside the gates and the club has a perfectly legal possibility of playing more foreigners?' he said. Nevertheless he promised that Bayern would conform to the agreement.

Top-shot Oakes qualifies

THE Commonwealth shot put champion Judy Oakes, who will be 38 next month, achieved the Atlanta Olympic Games qualifying standard when she won the shot at the Fiuma Grand Prix indoor meeting at Crystal Palace with a throw of 18.1m - 11cm over the qualifying mark.

Packers dispatch champions

INSPIRED, the Green Bay Packers put to the sword the San Francisco 49ers, disposing of the current Super Bowl champions 27-17 in front of their home crowd in an unexpectedly one-sided National Conference playoff game, played at Candlestick Park, Dec 31. Playing away from home, the Packers put on a flawless game to outwit and dissect the bewildered world champions, who had not lost in the divisional play-offs since 1968.

Lingfield runners and riders with form guide

Table with 2 columns: Race details and Odds. Includes races like 1.00 Supreme Handicap and 1.20 Vantage Handicap.

Table with 2 columns: Race details and Odds. Includes races like 1.30 WIGLOW HANDICAP and 1.45 VENTURE HANDICAP.

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Sanders 'stable'

AMANDA SANDERS, severely concussed in a bad fall at Lingfield on Saturday, is reported "comfortable" in Redhill Hospital. The duty manager said yesterday: "She is comfortable and stable, but will be detained for a further night so we can take a further look at her in the morning."

RACELINE FULL RESULTS SERVICE 0891-380635. Includes contact information for Lingfield and Southwell racing clubs.

FA CUP THIRD ROUND

Derby County 2, Leeds United 4

Leeds' late salvo fleeces Rams

IAN ROSS

AN ENRAPTURED Baseball Ground crowd rose as one at the final whistle after a lavishly entertaining match. They had seen Leeds claw their way back into a tie that had been slipping away from them to beat Derby with two injury-time goals to earn a fourth-round trip to Bolton.



Rams railed... Brian Deane finds the top corner for Leeds United's equaliser against Derby County at the Baseball Ground PHOTOGRAPH: NEAL SIMPSON

They'll send me to an early grave," said Wilkinson afterwards. "We are an honest side and today we dug ourselves out of a hole. I would think Jim Smith and his players will be scratching their heads and wondering how they lost."

Events after the interval were in marked contrast to a first half singularly lacking in appeal, although Derby were dealt two major blows in quick succession.

Midway through the half Deane rose smartly and intact from an innocuous collision with Igor Stimac, but Derby's Croatian international did not.

Rowett, who was sent off after preventing Deane from sprinting clear by using his right arm to pull down the Leeds forward.

Everton 2, Stockport County 2

Everton lose their grip

STEPHEN BIERLEY

WHEN Graham Stuart put Everton ahead after only seven minutes yesterday afternoon it seemed that the most routine of third-round ties was about to unfold at Goodison. The Stockport County players looked unhappily at one another, and many indeed there were moments in the last 15 minutes when Everton might have lost their grip on the Cup at the first time of asking.

score. Everton galped; County grew several feet. Everton were twice blessed. It had been a defensive error by Todd that allowed Stuart to put them ahead, and another mistake, this time from a Stuart corner, saw Ablett force Everton ahead again just before half-time.

Leicester City 0, Manchester City 0

Streptococci may be giant-killing's last best hope

COMMENTARY David Lacey

SEVEN Second Division teams won the FA Cup before greed broke up the Football League. The chances of the Premier League adding to the list had been more than ever on the luck of the draw, not to mention the luck of the game.

yet mock riches and status. United could still fall at Roker Park and Arsenal at Bramall Lane. But the sort of upsets which in the past have sent underrated teams careering towards Wembley on wheels of fortune are likely to be fewer and further between.

It is 16 years since the rarely used head of Trevor Brooking least Arsenal in being the Cup to West Ham during one of Upton Park's Second Division interludes. Four seasons ago Sunderland's attempt to revive glorious memories of 1973 amounted to a nose-when in the 1992 final when Liverpool struck to victory.

Manchester United at Nottingham Forest probably saved Alex Ferguson's career at Old Trafford. On Saturday Robins had several opportunities to get the management of Martin O'Neill at Filbert Street off to a bright start, but he missed them all.

Manchester United at Nottingham Forest probably saved Alex Ferguson's career at Old Trafford. On Saturday Robins had several opportunities to get the management of Martin O'Neill at Filbert Street off to a bright start, but he missed them all.

back at Mains Road. Much will depend on the streptococci lurking in a Georgian throat. Without Kinkladze this City side will always be swallowing hard.

Manchester United 2, Sunderland 2

Cantona spoils Makems' day

STEPHEN BIERLEY

WHEN a hard-bitten Sunderland admits that the Magpies are about to success tearing across the North-east is blowing everybody good. However, even so soon after the Christmas season when the lion lay down with the lamb, one cannot suppose the Magpies are about to snuggle up to the Makems. Sunderland and Newcastle supporters will no doubt be forever at daggers drawn.

field. The ball is played carefully from the back, with the midfield persistently attempting to ease play wide or, better still, behind the opposition defence. United's defence is not what it used to be, although on this occasion there was some cause, with Irwin, Fallster and Bruce returning and appearing less than match-fit. The absence of Schmeichel was also crucial; he would probably have saved both Sunderland goals.

Notts County 1, Middlesbrough 2

Boss Robson fines Boro's cursing, ageing inspiration

DAVID HOPPS

BRYAN ROBSON'S rare forays on to the field do not come lightly these days. His scintilla was "as sore as hell" and Middlesbrough's players manager had just to dock his own wages, but the most important fitness test was the one that Robson passed and which enabled him to confront the challenge head-on.

as that doesn't happen then I can get through it." Robson's reinvention as a manager may have begun but on the field his temper can still run unchecked. The player gripped at the referee during the first half when a supposed foul upon Stamp went unpunished; the manager imposed the mandatory 10 per cent fine. Only scintilla of the mouth (as yet undiscovered) could ever change that.

Birmingham City 1, Wolves 1

Blue moves

RUSSELL THOMAS

HOUSED in a refurbished St Andrew's, Birmingham appear a club of growing stature, playing the way a top club should and pushing for the Premiership. Yet Barry Fry ponders aloud: "Maybe we are not as big a club as we think we are."

Football League Board — and that includes the Football League, the Premier League and both Irish Leagues — is prohibited. Fry may be an exceptional wheeler-dealer, but scrapping the wages policy is stretching this reputation. "They reckon it will save around £250,000 a year," he said. "They say I can spend that on young lads coming out of non-League at £30,000 or £40,000."

Plymouth Argyle 1, Coventry City 3

Coventry keep it low and deliver the triple blow

DON BEET

TO BE sent to Coventry is had enough; to be sent to Plymouth on a wet, windswept evening is worse. For 45 minutes Robins' Premiership side enjoyed this match as much as an attack of toothache. Reduced to 10 men after 18 minutes, a goal down from the resultant free-kick and facing a gale, Coventry were up against it.

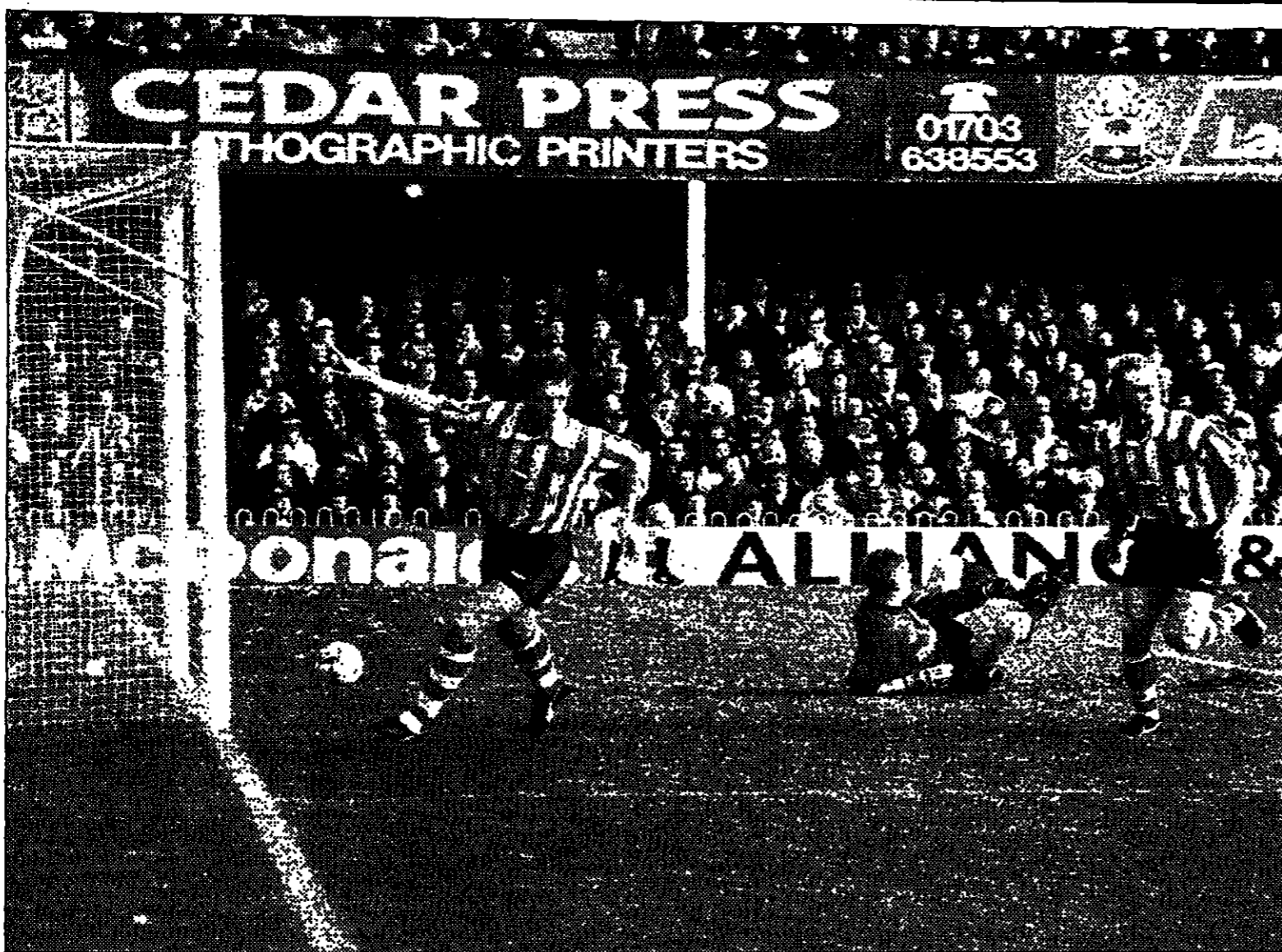
would get beaten," said Atkinson. "I told my players we would get goals in the second half." Between the 53rd and 58th minutes, Pickering, Salako and Teller took their share of his work. The outcome might still have been different if, shortly after Pickering's equaliser, Evans had restored the lead. He shrugged off two defenders, set himself perfectly for the shot but fired wide. "I felt the trick hinged on that miss," said Argyle's manager Neil Warnock. "Our heads dropped a little and Coventry went down the other end and got their second."

Villa charged over asbestos

ASTON VILLA are being taken to court by health officials this week after the alleged discovery of asbestos contamination at Villa Park.

tractors of failing to ensure the health of employees and public. Demolition work by Bannock Ltd uncovers debris contaminated with crocidolite, known as blue asbestos, the executive claims.

FA CUP THIRD ROUND



Lucky Jim... Magilton points the way for Southampton after Portsmouth's keeper Knight had failed to hold Le Tissier's shot PHOTOGRAPH: FRANK BARON

Southampton 3, Portsmouth 0 Pompey gunned down by Le Tissier's craft

Paul Weaver
THERE is no rivalry in English football more intense than that between these two Hampshire clubs, and the relative inexperience of their managers...

Barry Venison, who has that extra bit of charisma... Portsmouth was also unfortunate that Southampton, who had been knocked out of the Coca-Cola Cup by Reading...

Magilton, going for a third goal, was the hero of the hour... The opening goal came seconds after Portsmouth's Walsh had a penalty appeal turned down...

Terry Fenwick observed: "I thought three goals flattered Southampton but we saw the difference between the sides in the penalty areas..."

Having recovered from a back injury he has played in Hereford's last seven games, now as a central defender, and he knew he would be marking England's centre-forward Sheringham...

Weekend results

Table of weekend football results including Premier League, Championship, and various cup competitions.

TENNIS SCOTTISH CUP

Table of tennis results for the Scottish Cup, including men's and women's singles and doubles.

Rugby Union

Table of rugby union results for various leagues including the Premiership and National League.

Workington (2) 3, London Broncos (1) 0

Table of American football results for the NFL and other leagues.

Tennis

Table of tennis results for various international and domestic tournaments.

Brough diamond outshines Spurs

Frank Keating finds romance still alive and kicking at Third Division Hereford

HEREFORD staged an afternoon drama in both the rain and the romance of it all... Tottenham Hotspur had swagged into the dreary old city with good reason...

Falkirk double takes record man McCooist closer to an Ibrox bar

ALLY MCCOIST has the ascent of records in his nostrils, after a double in Rangers' 4-0 victory at Falkirk... Almost unnoticed, the free-scoring Rangers have gone seven matches without conceding a score...

Everyone's happy, but by far the happiest man in Herefordshire tonight is our bank manager...

Downing arrowed a heavy hard and high into the goalmouth and there was Brough craning highest of all and raming it in off his forehead... I've had harder games than that...

Italy cornered by Garcia

FUSSELL GARCIA, in 1988 the youngest ever Olympic gold medalist, scored the decisive goal in the final of his career to steer Great Britain to a 5-0 win over Italy in the second of their matches at Cagliari yesterday...

Britain squandered early goals, says Thompson

Garcia scored from Britain's third corner in the final of his career to steer Great Britain to a 5-0 win over Italy in the second of their matches at Cagliari yesterday...

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French win first Euro cup, page 12
Leeds back from the death, page 14

Engel on England's latest slip, page 13
Keating bullish about Hereford, page 15

SportsGuardian

FA CUP THIRD ROUND

Chelsea 1, Newcastle United 1

Ferdinand to rescue in late show

David Lacey

ONLY a messy Russian salad of a goal-kick, combined with Lee Ferdinand's acute scoring instincts, kept Newcastle United in the Cup at Stamford Bridge yesterday.

Just when it seemed that Chelsea's defence had preserved the narrow lead created by their counter-attacking skills, Glenn Hoddle's team found themselves hauled back to St James' Park for the third round's 14th replay. So far this season Newcastle have proved omnipotent at home, and Chelsea 1-0 there in September.

To complete the Bridge's frustration the draw for the fourth round then offered the winners of this tie a visit to Queens Park Rangers, where Chelsea had won in the Premiership five days earlier. Newcastle have not won away in the league since beating QPR in mid-October, and yesterday's performance fell some way below the standards of the 1-0 victory at Liverpool in the Coca-Cola Cup which will take them back to London on Wednesday for a quarter-final at Arsenal.

ager replaced Lee, who is carrying an Achilles injury, with Clark and abandoned his plan to play three at the back by pushing Albert forward.

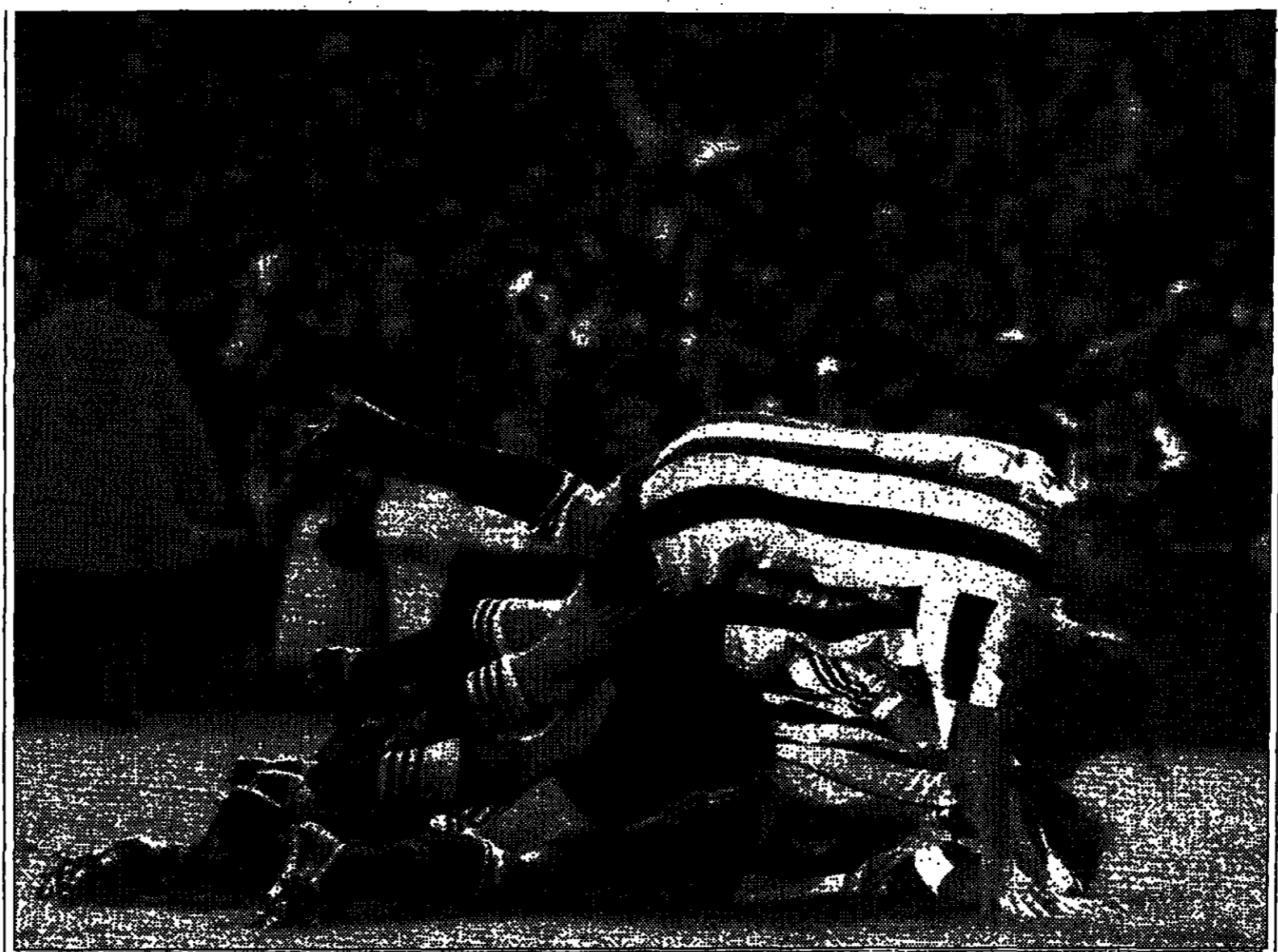
Once the change had been made Newcastle produced some of their better attacking rhythms, and Chelsea were starting to ride their luck towards the end. Nevertheless the denial of victory was hard on Chelsea's central defenders and especially Duberry, who has repeated the excellence of his pre-Christmas performance against Ferdinand.

For the best part of an hour Chelsea were Newcastle's superiors in almost every aspect of the game. The pattern of the play bore strong echoes of their 1-0 defeat of the league leaders a month earlier.

Wise ran the midfield with strong support from Newton and Spencer, Petrescu brought the ball out steadily on the right, Phelan's speed frequently took him clear of Barton on the left, and Hughes held the ball up with strength and skill.

The goal that gave Chelsea the lead in the 36th minute followed an inspired pass from Wise which released Phelan, who may not be football's most consistent crosser of a ball but this time achieved the perfect height, weight and angle of centre to find Hughes at the far post. Having stolen through the defence, the Welshman scored with an imperious header.

In the penultimate minute of the first half Albert's volley evaded Kharine's fingers only to bounce to safety off the left-hand post. Even after losing the injured Petrescu Chelsea did not seem in need of such luck, and had Srdicek not held a sharp volley from Furlong, after Wise and Phelan had again exposed Newcastle on the left, the contest would have been over in the 74th minute.



Grass-roots level... Howey, Peacock, Elliott, Clark and Kitson pile up the pressure on Ferdinand after his 93rd-minute equaliser PHOTOGRAPH: TOM JENKINS

FOURTH-ROUND DRAW

Arsenal or Sheffield United v Aston Villa
Bolton Wanderers v Leeds United
Charlton Athletic v Brentford
Coventry City v Leicester City or Manchester City
Everton or Stockport County v Crystal Palace or Port Vale
Fulham or Shrewsbury Town v Liverpool
Hereford United or Tottenham v Birmingham City or Wolves
Huddersfield Town v Peterborough United
Ipswich Town or Blackburn Rovers v Walsall
Middlesbrough v Watford or Wimbledon
Queens Park Rangers v Chelsea or Newcastle United
Reading v Manchester United or Sunderland
Southampton v Crewe Alexandra
Stoke City or Nottingham Forest v Millwall or Oxford United
Swindon Town v Barnsley or Oldham Athletic
West Ham United v Grimsby Town
(to be played January 27/28/29)

Newcastle seek capital gains

Russell Thomas

LES FERDINAND will aim to leave the calling card of another goal at his old Loftus Road premises if Newcastle can exploit the great escape staged by their £2 million man yesterday.

Newcastle seem destined to take the capital route to cup honours after being handed a London trip to QPR in the fourth-round draw yesterday. But first Kevin Keegan's team must overcome Chelsea in

their replay on January 17. Newcastle are back in the capital on Wednesday to face Arsenal in the Coca-Cola Cup quarter-finals, and Keegan said: "We've had so many draws against London clubs that I'm thinking of setting up a base round here."

Loftus Road will stage one of two all-Premiership contests, with Leeds's own recovery at Derby bringing Howard Wilkinson's side a return to Bolton, where they won 2-0 at Christmas.

Lara 'return' shocks Warks

David Hopps

WARWICKSHIRE were astounded by suggestions yesterday that Brian Lara is already contemplating a return to English cricket, only three months after abandoning his record three-year contract with the county.

"I have recharged my batteries and I'm feeling really keen and enthusiastic," was the batsman's assurance, as reported in the Mail On Sunday. "If a really good offer came in from an English county, I'd be delighted to consider it."

Lara's confused state of mind since he walked out of West Indies' tour to England last summer makes his intentions highly unpredictable. One minute he feels slighted and unloved, the next he announces that his batteries are recharged and that he is open to offers. But his pronouncement caused Warwickshire's chief executive Dennis Amis to react with understandable consternation last night.

Amis said: "We cancelled his contract and he is a free agent, but the spirit of our agreement was that he would not play for anyone else in 1996. We would be very disappointed if he did play for another county, and I'm sure the committee would have to look at it."

Sleightholme and Ojomoh get surprise England call

Robert Armstrong



Sleightholme... new face

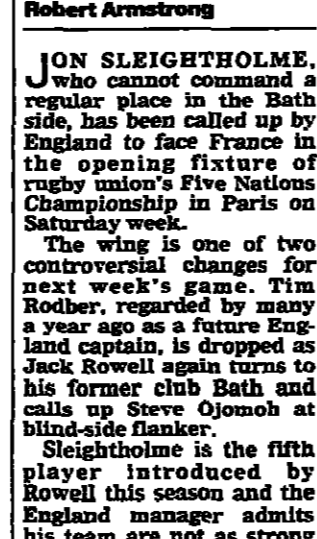
JON SLEIGHTHOLME, who cannot command a regular place in the Bath side, has been called up by England to face France in the opening fixture of rugby union's Five Nations Championship in Paris on Saturday week.

The wing is one of two controversial changes for next week's game. Tim Rodber, regarded by many a year ago as a future England captain, is dropped as Jack Rowell again turns to his former club Bath and calls up Steve Ojomoh at blind-side flanker.

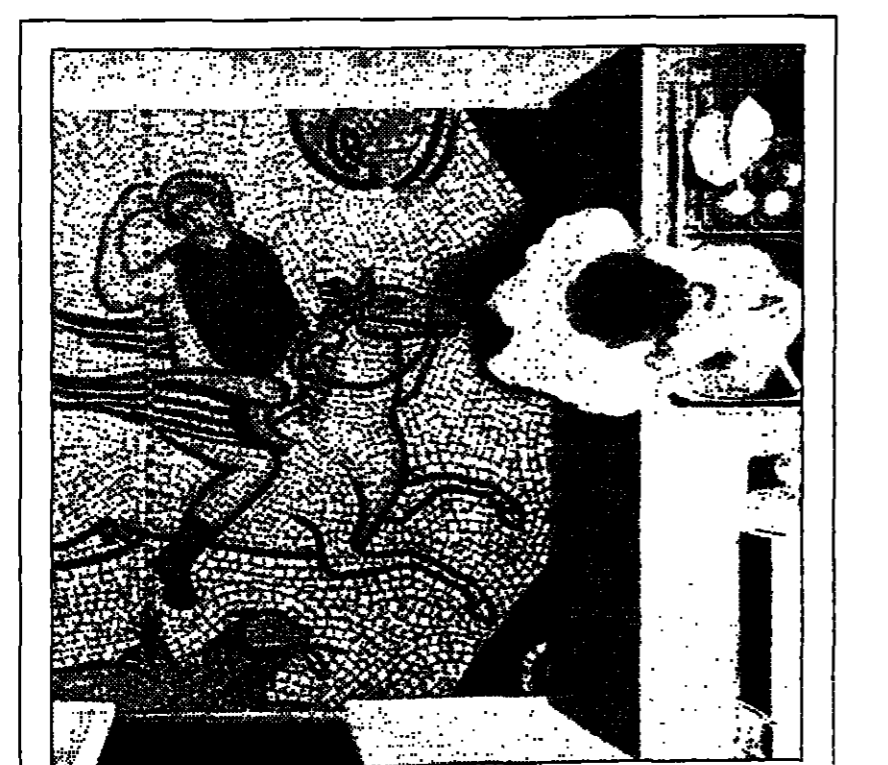
Sleightholme is the fifth player introduced by Rowell this season and the England manager admits his team are not as strong as the side that entered last year's Five Nations.

Guardian Crossword No 20,543

Set by Crispa



- Across**
- The perception of speed? (5)
 - The trainee on an old ship can be slow (5)
 - A Belgian centre one passed by (5)
 - Put on before attended to (5)
 - Stars never wobble from side to side (10)
 - People holding a middle position (4)
 - Intimates they could be finders out (7)
 - Figure the heck will appear in time (7)
 - Like a ring for a woman—superior household god (7)
 - A resort area some choose as ideal for retirement (7)
 - Cut a quarter, then left it (4)
 - Adjust rate and things will be different (10)
 - Support for a fisherman's club? (5-1)
 - Soldiers must precede the first lady and that's official (5)
 - Ocean-going vessels moving quickly (5)
- Down**
- Beginning to appear scared (5)
 - Commercial address occasioning high esteem (5)
 - Request one after another in a charming way (10)
 - Certainly not slow to speak (7)
 - Advances a member of the family (7)
 - Having money, always look sly (4)
 - Go on about a key causing a bulge (5)
 - Regulation of the unit dividing military supplies (5)
 - Tip over cross put in unsafe position (10)
 - Workers following a standard being set in Arizona (5)
 - Conjecture about crooked characters till proved innocent (5)
 - A pointer races to hit the gut (3-4)
 - Musical taking rest in a break (7)



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